

Message Text

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43

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INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: COLORED LEADERS MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER

REF: CAPE TOWN 565, 567, 578

1. AS REPORTED REFTELS, COLORED PERSONS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL (CRC) ADJOURNED AUGUST 31 AMID ANGRY CHARGES THAT MINISTER OF INTERIOR DR. CONNIE MULDER HAD GRATUITOUSLY INSULTED TOM SWARTZ, CHAIRMAN OF THE CRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND ACTED ARBITRARILY IN DENYING PASSPORTS TO COLORED LABOR PARTY LEADER SONNY LEON AND HIS FAMILY. CRC DECIDED IT WOULD RESUME MEETING ONLY AFTER HEARING SAG EXPLANATION OF MULDER'S ACTIONS.

2. EXTRAORDINARY MEETING BETWEEN CRC DELEGATION AND SAG OFFICIALS TOOK PLACE IN PRETORIA SEPTEMBER 11. CRC DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY SWARTZ AND WAS MADE UP OF SWARTZ SUPPORTERS IN CRC. LABOR PARTY WAS NOT PRESENT (FOR REASONS EXPLAINED CAPE TOWN 578). SAG SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, COLORED AFFAIRS MINISTER DR. SCHALK VAN DER MERWE AND INTERIOR MINISTER MULDER. ALTHOUGH NEITHER SIDE WOULD

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REVEAL DETAILS OF DISCUSSIONS, IT IS APPARENT THAT DEAL WAS

WORKED OUT IN HOPES OF SAVING EVERYONE'S FACE.

3. DEAL INCLUDED JOINT PUBLIC STATEMENT BY VORSTER, VAN DER MERWE AND MULDER, RELEASED SEPTEMBER 11, WHICH PUT BLAME ON CAPE TOWN'S AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER DIE BURGER FOR INCORRECTLY REPORTING MULDER'S REMARKS ABOUT SWARTZ. STATEMENT SAID DIE BURGER HAD PUT WORDS IN MULDER'S MOUTH. IT CLAIMED THAT DIE BURGER HAD SUBSEQUENTLY PRINTED CORRECTION.

4. CLUMSY EFFORT TO SHIFT BLAME TO DIE BURGER -- WHICH MAY NOT BE UNRELATED TO POLITICAL ANIMOSITY BETWEEN MULDER AND DEFENSE MINISTER P. W. BOTHA'S SUPPORTERS ON DIE BURGER AND PARENT NASIONALE PERS -- PROVED BE SOMETHING OF BOOMERANG FOR MULDER. DIE BURGER EDITOR PIET CILLIE REPUDIATED CLAIM THAT IT PRINTED CORRECTION TO ORIGINAL STORY. HE SAID MULDER HAD CONTACTED PAPER TO SAY THAT HE HAD NOT INTENDED BELITTling SWARTZ AND HAD ASKED THAT THIS BE REPORTED. DIE BURGER HAD DONE THIS, BUT DID NOT CONSIDER THAT IT HAD BEEN IN ERROR IN FIRST REPORT OR THAT SECOND REPORT CONSTITUTED A CORRECTION. MULDER HAS INDICATED THAT HE WILL REPLY IN HIS OWN GOOD TIME.

5. SECOND PART OF DEAL WAS SAG OFFER TO RECONSIDER LEON PASSPORT APPLICATIONS IF LEON WOULD GIVE ASSURANCE TO CRC THAT HE AND MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY WOULD NOT HARM SOUTH AFRICAN INTERESTS OVERSEAS. LEON'S REACTION TO THIS WAS "NO -- NEVER, EVER" TO A "PASSPORT OF SILENCE". TO ACQUIESCE, HE SAID, WOULD AMOUNT TO "CRAWLING" BEFORE SAG. IN ADDITION TO CASTING ASPERSION ON HIS LOYALTY TO SOUTH AFRICA, ACCEPTANCE OF SAG'S CONDITION MIGHT BE USED AS PRECEDENT FOR OTHER PEOPLE "BE THEY WHITE, BLACK OR BROWN" WHO WERE ALSO SUSPECT IN THE EYES OF GOVERNMENT, HE ADDED.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SWARTZ'S FEELINGS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN ASSUAGED BY SAG'S EXPLANATION OF MULDER'S REMARKS, AT LEAST IN PUBLIC, THE SEPTEMBER 11 MEETING DID NOTHING ELSE TO ALLAY GROWING COLORED MILITANCY AND ESTRANGEMENT FROM WHITES, AND MAY WELL HAVE EXACERBATED THEM. THOSE MEMBERS OF LABOR PARTY AND OTHERS OUTSIDE POLITICS WHO HAVE ARGUED THAT IT IS FUTILE TO TALK WITH SAG AND A TRAP BESIDES, HAVE BEEN GIVEN FURTHER AMMUNITION BY DEMEANING OFFER OF CONDITIONAL PASSPORT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO LEON. AS RESULT, LABOR PARTY MAY WELL DECIDE TO INTRODUCE MOTION IN CRC TO ABOLISH THIS SO-CALLED COLORED PARLIAMENT ALTOGETHER. SWARTZ'S FEDERAL PARTY, MADE UP IN LARGE PART OF NOMINATED MEMBERS, AND ITS SUPPORTERS PROBABLY COULD DEFEAT MOTION, BUT THEY COULD NOT UNDO DAMAGE TO ALREADY BADLY TARNISHED CREDIBILITY OF CRC AS EFFECTIVE POLITICAL INSTRUMENT. ON BASIS PRESS REPORTS, SWARTZ IS MADE TO LOOK MORE THAN EVER LIKE PLIANT TOOL OF GOVERNMENT FOR HIS PART

IN SHABBY DEAL.
SMITH

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